

Chairman Waukau's Notes

April 1, 2002

Poso My Fellow Menominees:

Winter doesn't seem to want to let us out its grasp this year, but the robins aren't paying any attention to our periodic snow showers and are going about their business anyway.

Vice-chairman Gene Caldwell and his committee are very busy working on restructuring the tribal organization. The Tribe gets larger every year and we haven't looked at reorganization since 1995. Organizations need to adapt to the changing times. Of course, there will always be some that are adamantly opposed to any change and will fall back on the mantra of we have always done it this way or this won't work. The fact is that we are not restructuring just to change, but we are doing it to make the tribe run more efficiently and empower the directors to do their jobs better with a smoother delivery of services to the Menominee people.

The Tribe's sovereignty is again under attack by the Supreme Court and there are those forces in Congress who would prefer not to recognize our sovereign abilities. This puts our tribe into the unenviable position of utilizing our resource to fight them in the legal system.

We are in the process of doing an archeological study of the land around the current jail/police/court structure which is where we intend to put our expansion if we find no human remains. That current facility was too small the day it was opened and expansion is an absolute necessity. Our options are expand outward, expand upward, or build a new courthouse elsewhere. I'll keep you updated on this important issue.

Our tribal supermarket building is in terrible shape. We suffered a big loss of product and damage during the March ice storm. Dean Waupoose and his staff are putting forth a Herculean effort just to keep the facility open for business. At this weeks MTL we will be looking at our options for rectifying this problem. One option is to sell the current structure and build a strip mall on our Go Around Road property. This would put the supermarket in a much better location and give us an opportunity to capture those tribal dollars that go directly to Shawano.

I met with the Social Security Agency this past month along with Mary Husby's department and Getta Coon's department. The purpose of the meeting was to see how we could get our people better service from that agency. An important point that came out of the meeting was that "no" doesn't always mean "no". So if you are rejected for services appeal the rejection until no more appeals are available. Our own agencies are available to assist you with that appeal.

The onset of spring means that children are out with their skates, bikes, 4 wheelers, and scooters. Keep an eye out for their safety.

Sincerely,

Lisa Waukau
Honorable Tribal Chairman